



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 3.9 percent for May 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was two-tenths of a percentage point above the April 2001 rate of 3.7 percent, and was up four-tenths of a percentage point from the May 2000 rate of 3.5 percent. The number of individuals employed increased from 239,200 to 240,900 and an increase occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 9,300 to 9,700. The net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* was 2,100 from April 2001 to May 2001, and an increase of 14,200 individuals from one year ago. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the May 2001 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

Treasure Valley Table 2: April 2001 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	181,070	6,020	3.3	175,050
Adams	1,600	215	13.3	1,385
Boise	2,535	125	4.9	2,410
Canyon	69,510	3,640	5.2	65,870
Elmore	9,290	560	6.0	8,730
Gem	6,475	395	6.1	6,080
Owyhee	4,105	195	4.8	3,910
Payette	10,230	680	6.6	9,550
Valley	4,280	310	7.2	3,970
Washington	4,660	360	7.7	4,300
Statewide	680,000	32,800	4.8	647,200

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* grew by 2,600 between April 2001 and May 2001, and grew by 7,600 jobs since May 2000. *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 500 jobs over the month. Job gains in *Construction & Mining* (400) and *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100) and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100) outpaced job losses in *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100). Since May 2000, the only *Goods-Producing Industries* to experience a job gain were *Construc-*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties

	May 2001*	Apr 2001	May 2000	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	250,600	248,500	236,400	0.8	6.0
Unemployment	9,700	9,300	8,300	4.3	16.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9%	3.7%	3.5%		
Total Employment	240,900	239,200	228,100	0.7	5.6
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	250,000	246,700	235,900	1.3	6.0
Unemployment	9,100	9,000	7,800	1.1	16.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6%	3.6%	3.3%		
Total Employment	240,900	237,700	228,100	1.3	5.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	233,700	231,100	226,100	1.1	2.2
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	54,600	54,100	54,100	0.9	0.0
Mining & Construction	17,100	16,700	16,000	2.4	4.4
Manufacturing	37,500	37,400	38,100	0.3	-1.8
Durable Goods	29,200	29,200	29,600	0.0	-1.4
Lumber & Wood Products	4,000	4,000	4,600	0.0	-13.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	1,000	0.0	-20.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	3,200	3,200	3,600	0.0	-11.1
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,200	1,200	-8.3	0.0
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,300	7,300	8,000	0.0	-8.8
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	13,000	13,000	11,800	0.0	10.2
Transportation Equipment	1,800	1,700	2,100	5.9	-19.0
Other Durable Goods	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Nondurable Goods	8,300	8,200	8,500	1.2	-3.5
Food Products	5,400	5,400	5,700	0.0	-5.3
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,600	1,600	1,800	0.0	-11.1
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Other Nondurable Goods	900	800	900	12.5	-11.1
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	179,100	177,000	172,000	1.2	2.9
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,200	12,100	11,900	0.8	1.7
Transportation	6,800	6,800	6,400	0.0	6.3
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,400	5,300	5,500	1.9	-3.6
Trade	58,300	57,600	55,000	1.2	4.7
Wholesale Trade	13,800	13,700	13,300	0.7	3.0
Durable Goods	8,500	8,400	8,000	1.2	5.0
Nondurable Goods	5,300	5,300	5,300	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	44,500	43,900	41,700	1.4	5.3
General Merchandise Stores	6,200	6,100	4,400	1.6	38.6
Foods Stores	7,700	7,600	7,800	1.3	-2.6
Eating & Drinking Places	15,600	15,300	15,000	2.0	2.0
Other Retail Trade	15,000	14,900	14,500	0.7	2.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,100	11,000	11,200	0.9	-1.8
Services	62,000	61,100	59,100	1.5	3.4
Business Services	14,900	14,700	15,200	1.4	-3.3
Health Services	18,000	17,900	16,400	0.6	9.1
Hospitals	8,600	8,500	7,400	1.2	14.9
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,900	4,800	4,300	2.1	11.6
Other Services	24,200	23,700	23,200	2.1	2.2
Government	35,500	35,200	34,800	0.9	1.1
Federal Government	5,200	5,100	6,000	2.0	-15.0
State Government	13,100	13,100	12,500	0.0	4.8
Education	4,500	4,600	4,200	-2.2	9.5
Administration	8,600	8,500	8,300	1.2	2.4
Local Government	17,200	17,000	16,300	1.2	4.3
Education	11,400	11,300	10,700	0.9	5.6
Administration	5,800	5,700	5,600	1.8	1.8

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

tion & Mining (1,100), *Electronic & Other Electric Equipment & Components* (1,200), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100), and *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products Manufacturing* (100); the other industries experienced job losses with the most jobs lost in *Industrial & Communications Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (700). The increases in *Goods-Producing Industries* accounted for 19.2 percent of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* added over the month and 6.6 percent of the jobs created over the year.

Service-Producing Industries added 2,100 jobs in the Boise City MSA from April 2001 to May 2001, and added 7,100 jobs since May 2000. The only industry that showed a job loss over the month was *State Government Education* (100); with the most job gains noted in *Eating & Drinking Places* (300), *Business Services* (200), and *Other Services* (500). Since May 2000, there was significant job growth in *General Merchandise Stores* (1,800), *Health Services* (1,600), and *Other Services* (1,000). The industries that experienced a job loss over the year were *Communications & Electricity*, *Gas & Sanitary Services*, *Food Stores*, *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate*, *Business Services*, and *Federal Government*. The increase in *Service-Producing Industries* accounted for 80.8 percent of the jobs created over the month and 93.4 percent of the jobs created over the year.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

Idaho Growth

In early June, the U.S. Department of Commerce released a report indicating economic growth for the nation. Idaho ranked 5th on that list, accompanied by seven other states that outperformed the national average in the past decade. Idaho ranked 6.6 during the 1992-99 period while the national average growth rate was 4 percent. Arizona was at the top of the list with a 7.3 percent growth rate followed by Nevada (7.0 percent), Oregon (6.8 percent), Colorado (6.6 percent), Idaho (6.6 percent), New Hampshire (6.3 percent), Utah (6.3 percent), New Mexico (6.2 percent), Georgia (5.8 percent), Texas (5.4 percent), and North Carolina (5.1 percent). Hawaii and Alaska showed the worst economic performance during the period with 0.3 and 0.5 growth rates, respectively. The report shows that nearly half of Idaho's average annual expansion was noted in *Manufacturing*, which is the same sector that has announced hundreds of layoffs over the past six months, questioning the state's future economic outlook.

Treasure Valley Job Outlook

Manpower, Inc. released its quarterly Employment Outlook Survey in late May. For the July through September 2001 period, 30 percent of the Boise companies interviewed expressed plans to increase their workforce, 7 percent expect to reduce their workforce, and the remaining 63 percent plan to keep their workforces stable.

The number of companies planning to hire more employees is down from last year, due to the softening of the national economy. According to the survey, jobs will increase in construction, wholesale and retail trade, and services, while job reductions are expected in finance, insurance, and real estate. Mixed projections were reported for transportation and utilities industries.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BOISE CITY MSA

- The \$64 million statehouse renovation project is scheduled to begin with phase one on July 15. Renovation and repair work will begin on the Capitol's exterior. The major part of the restoration, including overhauling the Capitol's interior and bringing the historic building up to building and life-safety codes, will not begin until 2003. The entire project will be completed by 2005, just in time for the centennial anniversary of the beginning of the Capitol's construction.
- In late May, ZiLOG, Inc. announced plans to sell its Nampa fabrication plant. ZiLOG employs 500 Treasure Valley residents, although no comment was made by the company on how many of these employees could be affected by the sale of the fabrication plant, and no negotiations are currently underway to sell the plant. ZiLOG employs 1,100 people worldwide.
- Hewlett-Packard will release a new digital color printing press for sale in the United States this summer. The HP Digital Press 6600 allows for up to six colors and high-fidelity printing, along with quick turnaround time and software that allows users to prioritize, interrupt and resume jobs, and accept submissions directly from company intranets. The press has a price range of \$200,000 to \$400,000.
- Extended Systems, Inc. in Boise has announced the layoff of 50 full-time and contract workers throughout the company. The number of workers in Boise who will be laid off was not announced. In addition to the layoffs, the company also issued a mandatory two-week vacation between July and September for all employees and a hiring freeze. The company also sold its printing business to Troy Group, Inc. of Irvine, CA, which will relocate 38 of Extended Systems employees to Troy Group.
- In early June, Micronpc.com announced 250 more layoffs due to final negotiations with Gores Technology Group. The people laid off were given a 60-day notice and continued to receive paychecks and benefits.
- In late May, SCP Global Technologies announced

the completion of its major expansion project that started last year. The expansion project included the addition of a new customer demonstration lab and an expansion of its manufacturing and training facilities.

- The Warhawk Air Museum opened at its new location at the Nampa Municipal Airport in late May. The museum moved from its original location in Caldwell, to Nampa to allow more space for valuable artifacts and memorabilia, mostly from the WWII era. The building that houses the Warhawk Air Museum also houses traveling NASA space exhibits, a gift shop, research library, and classrooms. Future plans for the museum include the addition of displays from the Korean and Vietnam wars.
- Cycle Nuts and Bolts, Boise's only authorized Harley-Davidson dealer, has announced plans to open a new Caldwell dealership by spring 2002. The new facility will be built near the Elks Club on Kimball Avenue in Caldwell. Along with the dealership, an on-site motorcycle safety course for new riders will be available. The company sells Harley-Davidson and Buell motorcycles.
- Decibel Products, an Allen Telecom company, announced the opening of a customer service center in Boise. The new customer service center has four employees who will serve customers throughout the Oregon, Washington, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho area.
- Cassidy Plaza, a \$1 million facility that will be dedicated to small professional offices in Eagle, is expected to start construction later this year. The plaza will contain two buildings, 5,000-square-feet each, on Academy Avenue, north of State Street. The construction should be finished by late fall.
- Port of Subs, a Reno-based submarine sandwich chain, has announced plans to open its first Idaho unit in the Family Center, located off Federal Way in Boise. The company has leased a 1,100-square-foot space in the 20,000-square-foot single-story retail building that currently houses Affordable Pet Clinic and Hair Masters. Also opening later this year in the same building, is Cold Stone Creamery. Port of Subs also plans to open another facility in or near the Meridian Crossroads shopping center by next year and a third location near downtown or Boise State University by April 2002.
- Sonic Corporation, based in Oklahoma City, has announced plans to open 15 drive-ins in the next three years in the Treasure Valley. Each drive-in employs

30-60 people. Currently, franchisees are negotiating on sites for two more Sonic units in Boise and one in Garden City that would open within the next year.

- A Jack in the Box fast food restaurant has started construction in the Five Mile Plaza in Boise. The construction should be completed in August.
- Mira Plaza, a new 11,000-square-foot building on the north side of State Street at Mira Avenue in Star has leased space to its first tenants, a Pizza Hut restaurant and The Lucky Star, a coffee shop.
- Mr. Dollar opened a new store in the Holly Shopping Center in Nampa. Mr. Dollar employs 10-12 individuals in the new store. The company currently has another store open in Eagle and expects to open two or three additional stores in the Treasure Valley.
- The Plum Tree restaurant and furniture store recently closed its doors resulting from pressures of new restaurants and a drop in furniture sales. The Plum Tree restaurant closed on May 1 and the furniture business is going through a liquidation process.
- A new homeless shelter is scheduled for Nampa. Construction on the new facility will begin in mid-July. The 56-bed facility will be operated by Nampa's Salvation Army, and programs will be provided to help homeless individuals and families move back into mainstream society.
- Wells Fargo opened a new branch in the East Cleveland Boulevard Albertson's store. A full range of banking services, a full-service ATM, and a customer service direct phone line are available in the new Wells Fargo branch.
- Coldwater Creek opened a store in the Boise Towne Square mall in late May.

Adams County

- Western Timber has announced that it hopes to open a plant in Council on business park land in fall 2001. The company will continue to operate its facility in Weiser, with the expansion of an additional facility in Council. The company will initially hire 8 to 10 people, but could eventually employ 30 at the facility. The Council City Council discussed an expansion of the business park and the agreement with Western Timber is being finalized. Under the agreement, the city plans to lease the property at no charge to Western Timber for five years, at which time the agreement will be renegotiated.
- In mid-May, a new community outreach center, The Community House, and a Thrift Store shared grand

openings in New Meadows. The Community House funds scholarships to graduating seniors of Meadows Valley High School who plan on continuing their education, as well as assisting area families in need of help.

- Idaho Power announced that it is permanently closing its Cambridge operations center this summer. The construction crew will move to Boise and there will be two line personnel still available which will allow the response to outages and emergencies to stay unchanged.

Elmore County

- Integrity Auto Sales opened in Mountain Home in early June. The company is located at 590 South 3rd Street West and is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.
- Elmore County has received recreation grants totaling \$143,157. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) approved the grants to help rural Idaho upgrade and add recreation facilities. Idahoans and visitors to the state use these recreation facilities.

Gem County

- The Gem County Recreation District (GCRD) and the YMCA are continuing to discuss a possible partnership to bring the YMCA to Gem County. The main issue is the funding of the YMCA and the programs that it will provide to the community.
- In early June, Gem County celebrated the 67th annual Cherry Festival.

Payette County

- Construction started in June on a \$15 million, 69,500-square-foot expansion on the Holy Rosary Medical Center. The new expansion will provide extra rooms and new facilities for patients. When the project is finished, about 7,500 square feet of the existing hospital will be remodeled and there will be six operating rooms instead of four.
- Fruitland Produce Barn celebrated its grand opening on Thursday, May 31. The Produce Barn features locally grown produce and is operated from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily.
- The Daily Buzz opened in New Plymouth in early June. The Daily Buzz is located at 129 N. Plymouth Street and offers a variety of products including espresso, Italian sodas, blended ice drinks, snow cones, smoothies, chai tea, and pastries. The coffee shop is open from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on weekends.

Valley County

- In early June, Valley County commissioners approved an application filed by Seubert Excavators of Cottonwood to allow a new rock pit south of Donnelly. The company plans to operate an excavation pit to procure basalt near the intersection of Goode Lane and Koskella Road. County officials stated that the homes located near the proposed pit may be purchased by the county, although no final decision has been made, but the appraisal process has begun.
- In mid-May, plans for new Valley County Fairgrounds to be built along the North Fork of the Payette River in Cascade were revealed by the Southern Valley County Recreational District. The new fairgrounds are being planned in conjunction with a new community recreation center. The proposed fairgrounds would include an exhibit hall, a barn for livestock sales, a horse barn, a picnic area, a multi-use field, and a 2,500-seat rodeo arena that would include covered seating. The project, if approved, could cost approximately \$11 million.

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